

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANKARA 03932 241005Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2044
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 3932

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: TU, GR, US, CY, PEPR
SUBJECT: MAY 21 JACK ANDERSON COLUMN

REF: ANKARA 3906

1. CHARGE INFORMED MFA SECGEN ELEKDAG OF EMBASSY PRESS GUIDANCE AND ASSURED HIM THAT ANDERSON COLUMN WAS THOROUGHLY INACCURATE RENDERING OF EMBASSY VIEWS OF ECEVIT ADMINISTRATION. ELEKDAG STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SETTING RECORD STRAIGHT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HE ARGUED THAT EMBASSY/USICA SHOULD IMMEDIATELY DISTRIBUTE AS A PRESS RELEASE TO TURKISH MEDIA.

2. WE HAVE AGREED TO CONSIDER DISTRIBUTING A PRESS RELEASE AFTER REVIEWING INITIAL TURKISH MEDIA REACTION. ELEKDAG ALSO INSISTED, AND WE CONCUR, THAT THE FOLLOWING SENTENCE BE INCLUDED IN THE GUIDANCE: QUOTE: THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THE COLUMN DO NOT IN ANY WAY REPRESENT THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY. END QUOTE.

3. INDICATIVE OF MFA ANXIETY OVER POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS OF THE COLUMN, ELEKDAG WENT OVER THE GUIDANCE TEXT IN PAINSTAKING DETAIL WHEN CPAO DELIVERED DRAFT TO DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INFORMATION HASAN UNER. ELEKDAG AND UNER BOTH OF WHOM ARE ACCOMPANYING
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ECEVIT TO BRUSSELS AND THE UNITED STATES) WERE ESPECIALLY EAGER TO REASSURE ECEVIT, BY SHOWING HIM THE EMBASSY GUIDANCE, THAT THE ANDERSON QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO AMBASSADOR SPIERS ARE INACCURATE. THEY FEEL THEY MUST INFORM ECEVIT ABOUT THE QUOTES IN A MANNER THAT WILL FORESTALL ANY PUBLIC DISPLAY OF RESENTMENT ON ECEVIT'S PART. UNER RECALLED "THE MONTREAUX INCIDENT" (ANKARA 1854) AS AN EXAMPLE OF HOW INFORMATION

RELAYED TO ECEVIT OUT OF CONTEXT COULD LEAD TO UNHAPPY
CONSEQUENCES.

4. ELEKDAG AND UNER ALSO EXPRESSED FEARS THAT ANY PUBLIC
OUTCRY IN TURKEY OVER AMBASSADOR SPIERS PURPORTED REMARKS
WOULD SEVERELY COMPLICATE ECEVIT'S PROGRAM IN BRUSSELS AND THE
U.S.

5. OF MAJOR PAPERS, ONLY CUMHURIYET CARRIED STORY TODAY
(ACCOMPANIED BY PICTURE OF AMBASSADOR). WE EXPECT FURTHER
COVERAGE DESPITE EFFORTS HERE TO DAMPEN STORY.
DILLON

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